THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006 (AMENDMENT OF EIGHTH SCHEDULE)

DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI (Rajasthan): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill futher to amend the Constitution of India.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): We shall now takeup further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Narayanasamy. On 24th November 2006, Shri Santosh Bagrodia had not concluded his speech while participating in the discussion. He may, therefore, like to speak.

THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE (REMUNERATIVE PRICES) BILL, 2006

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, on 24th November, 2006, I was speaking on this Bill introduced by our Chief Whip, Shri V. Narayanasamy—the Agricultural Produce (Remumerative Prices) Bill, 2006.

Sir, while I was speaking, I was mentioning that day that in 2004-05, the total production of foodgrains was 204 million tonnes. It was reduced, of course, mainly due to climatic conditions. But I did compliment the Government for record oilseed production and also cotton production. What I wish to say now is, if you see the records, the total area is coming down in agriculture. Sir, in 1960-61, in the 17th Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization the total area was 133.48 million hectares and the number of operational holdings were 50.77 millions. After ten years, in 1970-71, in the 26th round, it became 125.68 hectares and the number of operational holdings was 57.07 milion; it had increased. The total area of operation came down by 5.84 per cent. After another ten years, in 1981-82, in the 37th round, the area was 118.57 million hectares and the number of operational holdings increased to 171.04 millions, that is, the percentage came down by another 5.66, and the total number of holdings increased by 24.48 per cent. In 1991-92, after ten years, the total operational area came down to 125.10 million

hectares and the number of operational holdings went to 93.45 millions. Percentage of total area operated increased by 5.51 per cent. Ten years later, we find under 59th round in 2002-03, total area operated came down to 107.65 million hectares only and number of operational holdings came up to 101.27. Percentage rate of change for total area operated came down by 13.95 per cent. What I am trying to say is that total area under agriculture has come down from 133.48 million hectares from 1951 to 2000, in about fifty years. In half century, it has come down by more than 14 per cent whereas the holdings, as you know there is joint family system in our country and every year there is fragmentation of holdings, have been doubled from 50 million to 101.27 million holdings. In these circumstances, on the hand, the holdings have come down, total agricultural area has come down and I don't know why the same agricultural area is now being taken over for things like SEZ. That is why our leader, UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Gandhi, has said that we should not take over any agricultural land for SEZ purposes. This has to be taken very seriously. I have given the statistics. That is why there is less production of foodgrains and cereals in the country. If you don't have land, it has to come down. I will not dwell on it any more because, I think, I have said enough. Sir, I congratulate the Government for maintaining the MSP in Rajasthan at Rs. 1715 per quintal. It has increased from Rs. 1600 per quintal to Rs. 1715 per quintal. The annual production of mustard industry is 40 lakh tonnes which is close to nearly half of the total mustard produce in the country. So, I hope the hon. Minister will increase it further in view of the increased cost. Otherwise, here also the production will go down. Sir, in MSP princing, there should be zonal or State-specific MSPs, instead of all-India MSP. I cannot understand how can you have the same MSP in Punjab, Haryana and the same MSP in Andhra pradesh because everywhere the cost of labour is different, the cost of land is different, the cost of fertilizer is different and the cost of power is different. Some people might suggest that we should have MSP even district-wise, but at least zone-wise, if not, State-wise, we should have different MSPs. Unless we have different MSPs some farmers will get extra benefit and others will suffer because Government makes average of all the cost all over the country. That averaging does not help a farmer who is on the higher cost region. This has to be considered by the hon. Minister. Sir, assured and remunerative marketing opportunities hold the key to continued progress, enhancing farm productivity and profitability. The

State Government will have to undertake such reforms speedily in order to provide more options to the farmers for selling their produce, allowing the private sector including cooperatives to develop markets, promote direct sale to consumers and to remove bottlenecks and scope for corruption and harassment. What farmers seek in protection from market practices. If these farmers can go direct to retailers-now-a-days, lot of new big retail outlets are coming up--then all the middlemen will be eliminated and they will get the right price. Not only the farmers will get right prices, but the consumer will also get better product at better price because fresh goods will come for sale, whether it is vegetable and fruits, or cereals. The MSP of crops needs to keep pace with the rising input cost, which I have already explained. Market Intervention Scheme should respond speedily to exigencies, especially in the case of sensitive crops in the rain-fed areas. Now, last year, the wheat crop went down and we could not procure. We gave a bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal. But, we did it so late that by that time, the procurement had already gone out of our hands. Private people had already procured the material from the farmers. The farmers could have held it. So, we have to have a vision. With the help of modern equipment, we know what is going to happen. In fact, we know what is going to happen in the coming three, four, five or even six months, maybe even longer with better computer services available. Why do we not advise the farmers in advance so that they can finalise their strategy accordingly? Sir, establishment of community foodgrain banks will also help in the villages. Indian farmers can produce wide variety of health foods and herbal medicine and market them under strict quality control and certification. Sir, the latest requirement is organic food. Do you know how many pesticides we are eating? This is slow poisoning. How many chemicals are we eating? More organic food should be developed. On the one side, we might get more production, but on the other side, we have to see as to how much we spend on the health needs after that. So, if we have organic food, the requirement for Health Department will go down by a considerable extent. Sir, this should be propagated by the Ministry in a big way.

The Public Distribution System should renew itself and should undertake the task of enlarging food security baskets by storing and selling nutritious millets and other under-priced crops. I do not want to speak much on PDS except I want to draw the attention of the hon.

Minister that the whole purpose of PDS is to help the poorest of the poor. Do we really achieve it? What you are doing is that you are giving the allotment, but FCI sends the goods. From the FCI itself, instead of 100 Kilograms, probably, they give 95 kilograms. When it is transported, it becomes 85 kilograms. by the time it reaches the ration shop, it becomes 80 kilograms. Same thing is with any other product which is passed through these ration shops. What do we expect from these ration shop people? Are they going to subsidise it? Do they have the resources to subsidise? This 20 per cent loss will be managed by the ration shope people either by giving less quantity to the consumer or by adulterating the goods. The Government will have to accept some responsibility. More vigilance is required and we can also think over it. Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister to think over it. If the subsidy cannot reach the poorest people through this process, will it not be better that we abolish all these things and identify these poorest people and give them cash subsidy for their living? Let them buy from anywhere. Why should we force them to buy only from these places where they get bad quality material, less quality material? Then, they will be able to get material of their own satisfaction, from any shop which they think is the best. You may kindly consider this point, Sir.

The collective strength of the farmers has to be built up by encouraging farmer's organisations and other entities like cooperatives. Sir, it should be emphasised that there is no level playing field between the capital, subsidy and technology-driven mass production agriculture of the industrialised countries and the production by masses. Agriculture of India is characterised by weak support services, heavy debt and resource technology poverty. Indian single market will also help to promote farmer-friendly home market. I would now just explain, Sir, how the total number of units have doubled whereas the total area is reduced. With the fragmentation how can you expect them to be productive enough and compete with the developed countries? You have to find out some method. What happens is, for example, all these farmers may not be able to provide, say, mechanised tractors. If the Government can hace another agency which can give tractor service to these people, and in a big way, say, in 500 hectares all the farmers will get service from the same tractor. That will reduce the cost for the farmer and this tractor service will also make some money out of it. Then, we can probably compete better with the

developed countries. Otherwise, this fragmented land will continue to produce less. The productivity of land will remain less per hectare and we will never be able to compete with them.

The future of Indian agriculture will depend upon the efficiency and seriousness with which pro-farmer marketing systems are put in place. Sir, this is a very peculiar situation. Whatever is being produced in the country, 65 per cent consumers are also farmers themselves. so, they produce inefficiently. That affects them when they become consumer also. This will help, what I have suggested now. This may not be a straight cooperative farming. But, it will be much better organised. People will have individuality and the cooperative also. Both will be maintained together. That will reduce the cost and this is how the farmers and they themselves as consumers will also help them. This is a national waste, if our cost is more than any other country in the world.

The MSP and procurement operations are two separate initiatives and should be operated as such. The Government needs to ensure that both farmers, who also constitute a majority of consumers, and urban consumers get a fair deal. The food security basket should be widened to include crops of the dry-farming areas like bajra, jawar ragi, minor millets and pulses. The PDS should include these nutritious cereals and pulses purchased at reasonable MSP.

Sir, with living standards increasing, in my own State, in Rajasthan, I find people who are eating bajra, want to go to wheat. The result, is, the demand for wheat has increased and the demand for bajra has gone down. So, unless the MSP is increased for bajra, there will be a problem and finally the prices of bajra will also go up. So, the MSP should be considered from this angele and realistic MSP should finalised for bajra, jawar, etc. This will be a win-win situation both for the dry-land farmer and the consumer. We will witness neither a second Green Revolution nor much progress in dry-land farming unless farmers get assured and remunerative prices for their produce.

Sir, CACP, the Commission on Agriculture Cost and Prices, should be an autonomous statutory organisation, because there is too much Government influence. Sometimes it really does not help. Sir, State Agencies may continue to be used by the Centre to undertake operations in different States if they perform more efficiently than the FCI, because

the FCI has become unwield. There was a lot of discussion going on as to how we make the FCI more responsible, more need-oriented, and corruptionless. Probably you know that the foodgrains are lying in the open. There is no system of first-come first-out. Whatever come first, they have no method to take it out. The result is that it remains there and the mice, cats, dogs have a free time. Therefore, Sir, if you really want that whatever we procure is properly distributed all over the country, the FCI has to be revamped in a big way.

Sir, I congratulate Narayanasamyji, though my friend likes to disturb me, on and off, in a very friendly manner, on bringing a Bill which is very timely. We are all lucky that in the lottery, his name has come and the entire House is interested in it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): *Mostly, it comes.*

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: I hope there is no * in it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, I have a point of order. I want to know whether that word * is allowed in the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: No. That word is expunged.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: It cannot go on record.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: It is expunged.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: That is my personal remark. So, I, once again, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am sure the hon. Minister has understood the very serious problem of MSP and proper remunerative price for the farmers, and he will consider it seriously. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ARJUN KUMAR SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I rise to speak because Mr. Narayanasamy has brought a discussion, which I, think, is touching the very core of our economic policies. Sir, today, I was listening to Mr. Bagrodia. He is very right on many of the things. But the main problem today is that we are operating in an economy, which is running mostly on market incentives. It is difficult to think too much of market intervention. But, at the same time, particularly this Government cannot ignore the effects of a free market operation, if it affects the lives of the poor and lives of millions of farmers. So, we have to play a role, which

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

does not really upset the market system, but still intervenes in the market system in a market-friendly way to achieve the result that the Government today wants to achieve. I want to put it out because there is a lot of misunderstanding about the policy options open to the Government. All policy options do not mean that the Government has to intervene heavy-handedly. But, there are policy options when the Government can intervene for the benefit of the poor man, *aam aadmi,* in a way that does not really distort the basic reforms process. I am very grateful that Mr. Narayanasamy, very rightly, has brought this particular issue holding out the importance of the Commodity Board, and I want to put forward this question very clearly. Because today, if we have to do something we have to do it in a manner that is decentralised; all the decisions are taken in a participatory manner and those who are affected are involved in this thing. A few days back the Congress President made a statement that instead of just simply talking about public-private partnership, we should talk about public civil society partnership. The Board that Mr. Narayanasamy is talking about could be a perfect example of that. If the Board consists of members who represent the farmers, consumers and the civil society and it tries to monitor the policies that are followed and bring out the implications of that openly, it will serve a major purpose.

Sir, let me point out the three questions that he has raised. One is the Minimum Support Price. Now, we have mechanisms here. We have got the Agricultural Prices Commission and Mr. Bagrodia said that there are problems in fixing prices from different regions etc. But, the main issue there is not lack of expertise. The main issue is of a mechanism to reflect the opinion of the people who are affected. The Minimum Support Price that experts would arrive at on the basis of cost calculations etc. need not be the right Minimum Support Price. Now, in our system, the Government finally takes a decision. Minimum Support Prices are recommended by this agency and the Government takes a decision. Mr. Narayanasamy's Board would introduce a special public civil society organisation which would be able to reflect on the correctness of the Minimum Support Price, point out why it should be different in different area and would be able to tell this to the Government. I am not saying that Commodity Board's recommendation should be mandatory, but this is a major instrument that is missing in our system by which can actually capture the views of those who are being affected.

The second question that has been raised is, that agency should purchase in the market. Now, there are two ways by which the Government can intervene in purchase. First is when there is a bumper crop and the market prices are below the Minimum Support Price. The Government says quite categorically that the Minimum Support Price is something at which the produce of any farmer, if he offers his produce, must be bought by FCI or whichever Government agency is concerned. There is no way of monitoring that. There are plenty of cases where you can point out that although FCI should make the purchase, they have not made the purchase. Who will monitor this? This is again a task of the civil society public partnership which this Commodity Board can perform. But this role is already there for the FCI to play, that if there is a bumper crop and the prices are below the Minimum Support Price, they must purchase. If they do not, somebody should monitor and Mr. Narayanasamy's Commodity Board is very well placed for that. But there is another point where the Government or the Government agency can intervene and make the purchase even when the market price is not below the Minimum Support Price. This would be--this is all given in our system-- to build up the buffer stock, that we need so much stock so that we can intervene in the market at the right time. That particular freedom this Government agency must have. Unfortunately, in our system, very seldom, if you ask the FCI to go and make a purchase in the open market, our systems of auditing, system of CBI and systems of all types of cross-check would very rarely allow an initiative taking FCI to go in the market and make open market purchases. Here again, this Commodity Board can play a very major role, that there are certain areas and certain places where this Government agency can make a purchase at a price which is reasonable. And I am expecting that the Board will play that particular role very well. Finally, and this is the point which needs emphasis, the question of distribution of this product. This is the point where our system is failing, actually falling apart. The hon. Member, Shri Santosh Bagrodia, has just said that our Public Distribution System is meant for the poor people. Very seldom the whole quantity reaches them. The BPL card is nobody's business. But the most important point is that nobody has the right to a BPL card, but everybody has a right to minimum access to food, and therefore, this distinction between the BPL and APL that has been introduced in our system, is the source of major corruption and major distortion in the market because we do not know who is BPL

and who is APL. This particular problem comes up again and again, as a result of that. I think, we shall get an opportunity to talk about the prices when the debate on the price rise takes place. At that time, I will give you evidence about these things. Even in this crisis situation, the total release of foodgrains has come down because of a very peculiar belief that we need not care about the APL; we should care about only the BPL, without knowing how to distinguish between the two. This is an issue which I shall take up if I am allowed to speak on the prices. But today, while pointing out to Narayanasamy's idea of the Commodity Board, I would like to say that it can play a very major role in seeing whether the Public Distribution System is working or whether it is not working, it can point out that it is not working, how it can be changed. What I am visualizing, following again the lead given by the Congress President, to organise proper civil society public partnership organisations, and this Commodity Board of Narayanasamy should be an example of that. It can play a major role at every step of our agriculture marketing, price fixing, procurement of products and also Public Distribution System. And therefore, I fully support this Bill, and I hope, the Minister will take into consideration all these things. There would be some issues about the membership of the Board, issues about what kind of powers it will have, *vis-a-vis*, the Government. It has to be only advisory, but not just advisory in the sense that you do not care about this whole thing. Every recommendation of the APC should go to them, to the Government for consideration.

Then, another question comes, and I think, Mr. Narayanasamy will be able to talk about it. We may not consider about one Commodity Board. We may have to consider about different Commodity Boards for different commodities. These issues can be taken up by the Minister at a different point of time when this is considered. I support the Bill fully. Thank you.

श्री सुरेश भारद्वाज (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : धन्यवाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष जी। सबसे पहले तो मैं इस सदन के वरिष्ठ माननीय सदस्य श्री नारायणसामी जी को बधाई भी दूँगा और उनका धन्यवाद भी करूँगा कि उन्होंने यहाँ एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर यह निजी बिल लाया है। क्योंकि भारत एक कृषि प्रधान देश है, आज भी हिन्दुस्तान की लगभग 73 प्रतिशत से

[श्री उपसभापति पीठासीन हुए]

अधिक जनता कृषि पर निर्भर करती है। चाहे बहुत-से लोग नौकरी-चाकरी भी करने लगे हैं,

व्यापार भी करने लगे हैं, लेकिन उसके बावजूद भी वे कृषि से सम्बन्ध रखते हैं। लेकिन इस स्वतंत्र भारत में, लगभग 60 वर्षों की आजादी के बाद भी, आज किसानों को आत्महत्या करने पर मजबूर होना पड़ रहा है। हम लगभग हर सत्र में किसानों द्वारा की जाने वाली आत्महत्याओं के बारे में विचार करते हैं, चर्चाएँ करते हैं, लेकिन उसके पश्चात् भी हमारा जो ट्रेंड है, वह समाप्त नहीं हो रहा है। किसी समय भारत में आजादी के बाद अमेरिका से पी॰एल॰-480 के अन्तर्गत गेहूं आता था, अनाज आता था, जो लगभग खाने के काबिल नहीं होता था, लेकिन चूंकि भारत अनाज के विषय में आत्मनिर्भर नहीं था, इसलिए हमें उस प्रकार का अनाज आयात करके खाने पर मजबूर होना पड़ता था। लेकिन देश के किसानों और हमारे वैज्ञानिकों, जिसमें लुधियाना यूनिवर्सिटी के डा॰ एम. एस. रंधावा जैसे लोग और देश के उस समय के हमारे प्रधान मंत्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री के संकल्प के कारण देश हरित क्रांति की ओर बढ़ा और स्थिति यह बनी कि भारत अनाज की दृष्टि से एक सरप्लस देश बना। हमारे सदन में माननीय सदस्य एम.एस. गिल जी बैठे हैं, जो उस विषय के बहुत बड़े ज्ञाता हैं और पंजाब में तो कृषि को बढ़ावा देने की दृष्टि से इनका बहुत महत्वपूर्ण योगदान रहा है।

महोदय, आज देश में जैसे-जैसे ग्लोबलाइजेशन, बाजारीकरण, इस प्रकार की व्यवस्थाएं आ रहीं हैं, उससे देश का किसान और ज्यादा तकलीफ में आता जा रहा है। आजादी के इतने वर्षों के बाद भी किसान को अपनी खेती के लिए वर्षा पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता है, यानी वर्षा होगी तो खेती अच्छी होने की संभावना हो सकती है। इसके अलावा जब देश में उसको खाद समय पर मिलेगी, मुनासिब दामों पर मिलेगी, तो खेती अच्छी हो सकती है। किसान का अधिकांश कार्य जो है, वह प्रकृति पर निर्भर करता है। यदि वर्षा अच्छी न हो, तो किसान की फसल बर्बाद हो जाती है। हमने किसानों के लिए यह व्यवस्था की थी कि गांव में जो साहूकार हैं, उनसे उन्हें ऋण लेने की आवश्यकता न हो, इसके लिए बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया था और देश में सहकारी बैंकों की एक श्रृंखला प्रारंभ की गई थी, लेकिन आज धीरे-धीरे यह सारी व्यवस्थाएं समाप्त होती जा रही हैं। आज भी किसानों को जो बैंको से ऋण दिया जा रहा है, वह सबसे कम दिया जा रहा है, उद्योगों और व्यापार के मुकाबले कृषि क्षेत्र को बैंकों में तरजीह नहीं दी जाती है। यहां सदन में वर्तमान यूपीए सरकार ने एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया था कि किसानों को 7 प्रतिशत की ब्याज-दर पर ऋण दिया जाएगा, ऐसा आदेश मंत्रालय ने कर दिया है, लेकिन आज भी किसानों को यह ऋण 7 प्रतिशत की ब्याज-दर पर नहीं मिल पा रहा है। इन सारे कारणों से किसान खेती पर निर्भर रहने के बजाय दूसरे कामों की ओर देखने पर मजबूर हो रहा है। किसी समय कहा जाता था - "उत्तम खेती, मध्यम व्यापार, निम्न चाकरी", लेकिन आज यह उल्टा हो रहा है। आज प्रत्येक किसान यह चाहता है कि हमाने घर से हमारा जो बच्चा है, उसको किसानी का काम करने के बजाय किसी तरह ही नौकरी, कारखाने में छोटी-मोटी नौकरी मिल जाए, ताकि उसका रिस्क कम हो जाए। जब उसकी फसल प्रकृति के

कारण पैदा नहीं होती, जब उसको ऋण नहीं मिलता या अधिक ब्याज-दर पर ऋण मिलता है, तो उसे वापस लौटाने की संभावना उसके लिए बहुत कम रहती है और ऐसी स्थिति में या तो वह छोटा-मोटा व्यापार करने की दृष्टि से या नौकरी करने की दृष्टि से दौड़ लगाता है। इसी के कारण आज देश में कृषि-भूमि, जिस पर कृषि की जाती थी, वह भूमि भी कम होती जा रही है। इधर हम कहीं पर एम.ई.जेड. में सारी कृषि को ले रहे हैं, एक्वयार कर रहे हैं और उस भूमि को हम बड़े-बड़े जो सेठ हैं, जो उद्योगपति हैं, उनको उद्योग लगाने के लिए दे रहे हैं, जबकि एस.ई.जेड. बनाए जाने का कारण कुछ और था कि किसी आधार पर वहां स्माल और मीडियम जो इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, उनके लिए व्यवस्था की जाएगी। आज बड़े-बड़े एस.ई.जेड. में लग रहे हैं, ताकि उनको टैक्स एग्जेम्पशन रहे।

महोदय, आज देश में खेती पर निर्भरता कम होती जा रही है और जिसके कारण कोई भी किसान या कोई भी आदमी खेती करना लाभकारी नहीं समझता है। इससे देश में आज बहुत भारी अव्यवस्थाएं और गरीबी बढ़ती जा रहीं है और चंद जो अमीर हैं, वे अमीर होते जा रहे हैं। इस प्रसंग में माननीय नारायणसामी जी ने मांग की है कि खेती की दृष्टि से जो अनाज होता है, उसकी एम. एस.पी., मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस, रेम्युनेटिव प्राइस जो है, वह किसानों को मिले, इस दृष्टि से व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए। लेकिन आज देश में जो व्यवस्था है, पैदा होने से पहले जब किसान के द्वारा अनाज बोया जाता है, वह ऋण लेकर बोया जाता है, साथ ही फर्टिलाइज़र्स की कीमतें दिन-प्रतिदिन बढ़ती रहती हैं। आज फर्टिलाइज़र की कीमत कुछ और है, दो महीने बाद ही वह बढ़ कर कुछ और हो जाती है, लेकिन जो किसान है, उसके लिए साल में एक बार जो दाम तय होता है, पूरे साल वही दाम मिलता है। इस पर भी जिस प्रकार से आज मूल्य तय किया जा रहा है, आज बाजार में बड़ी-बड़ी कम्पनियों को किसानों से अनाज खरीदने की छूट दी जा रही है। कई बार तो वे कंपनियां ज्यादा दाम लेकर अनाज खरीद लेती हैं, लेकिन बहुत ही कम मात्रा में खरीदती हैं और बड़े-बड़े किसानों से ही खरीदती हैं। जो छोटे किसान होते हैं, आम तौर पर उनको इन कंपनियों का कोई लाभ नहीं मिल पाता है और जो सरकारी एजेंसीज़ हैं, जिनमें एफसीआई या अन्य इस प्रकार की एजेंसियां आती हैं, वे मार्किट में बहुत देर से एंटर होती हैं। जब तक वे मार्किट में एंटर होती हैं, तब तक आधे से ज्यादा अनाज बहुत ही कम दामों में व्यापारी खरीद कर ले जाते हैं, जिसका परिणाम यह होता है कि किसान अपना ऋण नहीं चुका पाते हैं और उन्हें आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ता है। इस संबंध में एक बात विशेष ध्यान देने योग्य है कि जब हमने मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस तय किया हुआ है, उसे समय रहते ही, जब फसल आने का समय होता है, उससे कम से कम 15 दिन या एक महीना पहले ही तय किया जाए और बीच में जब तक फसल की कटाई होती है या मार्किट में अनाज जाता है, उस समय उसे रिव्यू किया जाता रहे। सैंन्टर में सीसीए या इस प्रकार अनाज की एमएसपी तय करने वाली जो कमेटीज़ बनती हैं, उनमें देश के ऐसे लोगों को,

एक्सपर्ट्स को एवं जन-प्रतिनिधियों को रिप्रेजैंटेशन दिया जाना चाहिए, जिनको ज़मीनी हकीक़त की जानकारी हो। क्योंकि जब हम यहां पर बैठ करके कोई भी चीज़ तय करते हैं, हम आंकड़ों या दुनिया के बाज़ारों के आधार पर ही सब चीज़ें तय करते हैं, लेकिन हकीक़त में ज़मीन पर क्या हो रहा है, हम उससे नावाकिफ़ ही रहते हैं, इस दृष्टि से उसमें इसी प्रकार की व्यवस्थाएं की जाएं। ऐसी ही एक व्यवस्था करने के लिए माननीय नारायणसामी जी ने भी कहा है कि इसके लिए एक परमानैंट इंडिपैंडैंट बोर्ड या स्वायत्तशासी संस्था का गठन किया जाए, मैं इनकी इस बात से पूर्णतया सहमत हूं, कृषि के क्षेत्र में अनाजों की कीमतें तय करने के लिए और मार्किट में हमारी सरकारी एजैंसीज़ ठीक समय पर इंटरवीन कर सकें, इसके लिए आज ऐसी प्रॉपर एवं परमानैंट व्यवस्था किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

इतने वर्षों से हरित क्रांति आई, किसानों ने अनाज पैदा किया, लेकिन आज अगर पंजाब में जाएं तो वहां का युवा वर्ग खेतों में काम नहीं करना चाहता है। जब ग्लोबलाइज़ेशन इत्यादि की बात होती है तो कहा जाता है कि हमारे जो यूरोपीय देश हैं या अमरीका इत्यादि देश हैं, वहां पर किसानों को सब्सिडी दी जाती है, क्योंकि वहां पर सब्सिडी स्वचालित होती है, लेकिन, जब हिन्दुस्तान की बात आती है तो इस प्रकार की व्यवस्थाएं लाने की बात की जाती है कि यहां पर यह खत्म की जाए, हम यह भूल जाते हैं कि इस दृष्टि से हिन्दुस्तान में और यूरोपीय देशों में बहुत भारी भिन्नता है।

पहले हिन्दुस्तान में गांव सैल्फ सफिशिएंट यूनिट हुआ करता था, जिसमें हर प्रकार का कार्य उस गांव के अंदर ही किया जाता था, लेकिन जब हम विदेशों के साथ इन बातों की तुलना करते हैं, किंतु इस तरह की व्यवस्थाएं यहां पर दे नहीं पाते हैं, ऐसे में हमारे किसानों को खेती छोड़ने और आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ता है। हमारे यहां पर हरित क्रांति आने के बावजूद, अनाज के मामले में सैल्फ सफिशिएंट होने के बावजूद भी वर्तमान सरकार के कार्यकाल में, मुझे बड़े दु:ख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि हमें 70 लाख मीट्रिक टन गेहूं का आयात करना पड़ा। जो कुछ आप बाहर के किसानों से खरीद कर ला रहे हैं, वह लो क्वालिटी का गेहूं है और आज भी वह पोर्ट्स के ऊपर पड़ा हुआ है और देश का कोई भी व्यक्ति उसे ख़रीदने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। ऐसे गेहूं को खरीदने के लिए हम 1100 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल दे रहे हैं, लेकिन जो गेहूं हिन्दुस्तान में हम अपने किसानों से खरीद रहे हैं, एसे केवल 800 रुपये ही दिए जाते हैं। अगर आप हिन्दुस्तान के किसान को उचित रिम्यूनरेटिव प्राइस दें तो हमें अनाज या गेहूं विदेशों से आयात करने की आवश्यकता ही नहीं रहेगी। इस बात की उचित तौर पर चिंता की जानी चाहिए, इस पर गहन चर्चा की जानी चाहिए, इसके लिए प्रॉपर नीतियों का निर्धारण होना चाहिए कि किस कारण हमें बाहर के किसानों को ज्यादा पैसा देकर अनाज को इम्पोर्ट करना पड़ रहा है। हिन्दुस्तान के किसान को अगर हम वही सुविधाएं देंगे, अगर सिंचाई की हम प्रोपर व्यवस्था करेंगे तथा भारत निर्माण की एक योजना बनाई है जिसमें सिंचाई एक विशेष कम्पोनेंट है। लेकिन आज भी जब हम प्रदेशों में देखते हैं तो वहां पर सिंचाइ की दृष्टि से कोई पैसा लग नहीं

रहा है और हिन्दुस्तान में जो भी योजनाएं बनती हैं उनमें सिंचाई के लिए पैसा जाता है तो सबसे पहले एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव एक्सपेंडिचर को देखा जाता है, उसकी व्यवस्था की जाती है और बाद में वह एक्च्युअल कार्य हो या न हो और वह चलता है या नहीं चलता है, इस पर हम विचार नहीं करते, इस पर ध्यान नहीं देते। यू॰एस॰ एड के तहत कुछ सिंचाई की व्यवस्थाएं, लघु सिंचाई की व्यवस्थाएं बहुत सारे प्रदेशों में हुई थीं, लेकिन जब तक वे योजनाएं चलीं तब तक तो कुछ नहरें बनी और कहीं पानी आया, लेकिन जब वे योजनाएं खत्म हो गईं तो उसके बाद वह पानी भी बंद हो गया। तो इस प्रकार की व्यवस्थाएं हम अपने देश में किसानों की फसल को बढ़ाने के लिए नहीं कर रहे हैं कोआपरेटिव जो इसका एक महत्वपूर्ण अंग था, जिसके कारण किसानों को हम जहां ऋण की व्यवस्था करते थे वहीं पर हम मार्केटिंग सोसाइटीज के द्वारा उसको मार्केट में उचित दाम मिल सकें, इस बात की भी व्यवस्था करते थे और वह एक किस्म से मार्केट इंटरवेशन के रूप में कार्य करती थी। लेकिन आज हिन्दुस्तान की जो कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटी हैं, चाहे वह नेफेड है, चाहे वह इस प्रकार की एन॰सी॰सी॰एफ॰ हैं, जितनी भी ये सारी संस्थाएं हैं, वे सारी की सारी समाप्त होती जा रही हैं। हमारे प्रदेशों में कोआपरेटिव इंस्टीट्यूशंस आज बंद होती जा रही हैं या घाटे में चल रहीं है और निचले स्तर पर भी जो हमारी कोआवरेटिव सोसाइटीज़ हैं वे समाप्त होती जा रही हैं। इस मार्केटिंग इंटरवेंशन के लिए सरकार को अगर डिसेंट्रलाइज करना है तो कोआपरेटिव को स्ट्रेंथन करने की आवश्यकता है। जब ऋण की व्यवस्था सोसाइटी से कम ब्याज पर करते हैं वहीं पर उनसे अनाज खरीदकर मार्केट में भी वह ठीक प्रकार से पहुंचा सकते हैं, क्योंकि बड़े-बड़े किसानों का अनाज तो ठीक प्रकार से पहुंच जाता है और ठीक दाम भी मिलता है। हम तो अपने क्षेत्र हिमाचल प्रदेश में अनाज पैदा नहीं करते हैं, हम तो फल बेचने वाले हैं, सेब का क्षेत्र है हिमाचल प्रदेश। लेकिन उसमें भी पूरे का पूरा प्रकृति पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता है। अगर कभी ओला पड़ गया तो सेब समाप्त हो जाएगा, कभी बारिश ज्यादा हो गई तो सेब समाप्त हो जाएगा। बर्फ कम गिरी तो समाप्त हो जाएगा, अधिक गिरी तो भी समाप्त हो जाएगा और इसका परिणाम होता है कि जो छोटा किसान है, छोटा बागवान है तो उसको सारे वर्ष कर्ज लेकर के अपना गुजारा करना पड़ता है। तो इस दृष्टि में एम॰एस॰पी॰ में जहां बहुत सारे क्षेत्रों में अनाज को दिया जाता है, जो ये फल पैदा करने वाले हैं, किन्नू पैदा करने वाले हैं, संतरा पैदा करने वाले हैं, आम पैदा करने वाले हैं या सेब पैदा करने वाले हैं या अंगूर पैदा करने वाले हैं, उन किसानों को न तो इंश्योरेंस कवर दिया जाता है, न ही उनको एम॰एस॰पी॰ में दिया जाता है, न कोई मार्केटिंग इंटरवेंशन स्कीम प्रोपरली चलाई जाती है। तो मेरा निवेदन रहेगा कृषि मंत्री महोदय से कि इस विषय में भी विचार करें और इन फसलों को भी, जो फल पैदा करने वाले किसान हैं, इनको भी ठीक प्रकार से रेम्यूनेरेटिव प्राइस मिल सकें क्योंकि वास्तव में तो ये भी किसान हैं। उन क्षेत्रों में कृषि नहीं हो सकती है, क्योंकि वहां पर सिंचाई की वैसी व्यवस्था नहीं हो सकती है जिसमें अनाज की पैदावार हो सके, इसलिए वहां पर फल पैदा किए जाते हैं, जिसकी बहुत आवश्यकता भी रहती है और फल भी पैदा करना बहुत आवश्यक है। तो उनको भी ठीक प्रकार से प्राइस मिल सके, इस दृष्टि से भी इसमें व्यवस्था करने की आवश्यकता है। मैं माननीय नारायणसामी जी द्वारा जो यह प्रस्ताव रखा गया है, इसका भरपूर समर्थन करता हूं और रेग्यूलेटरी

ऑथोरिटी राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर बनाई जाए जो हर प्रकार के विषय पर ध्यान देकर के किसानों की स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए रेम्यूनेरेटिव प्राइस उनको मिल सके, उचित दाम मिल सकें ताकि वे लोग खेती पर काम करना चालू रखें, खेती को छोड़ नहीं दें, इस दृष्टि से अगर व्यवस्था होगी तो मैं समझता हूं किसान के साथ सारा देश खुशहाल हो सकेगा। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, first of all, I congratulate my esteemed colleague and friend, Shri V. Narayanasamy, for bringing in the Agricultural Produce (Remunerative Prices) Bill, 2006, and for giving a scope for discussion on the affairs of agriculture as a whole. Many a time issues have been raised here, in the House, and discussions have also been held on the conditions of farmers, on the affairs of agriculture. What I would like to refer here is that our discussions have not yielded sufficiently good result up till now, and that is why the issue is coming to the House again and again. The reason for this is that we are not pursuing a correct agricultural policy; I should mention that first. If the agricultural policy is not correctly derived, it may not yield good result. Now what should be our agricultural policy? The agricultural policy should be so designed that the farmers should have land; so to say, a viable quantity of land should be given to each and every farmer. I say, 'viable quantity' which enables him to take loans; he should be able to get a substantial income so that he can return the loan and also maintain his livelihood. But if we see what the condition of land is, about 66 per cent of the farmers of our country are having land less than one hectare, or, you may say, less than two acres. This is the condition of the farmers in our country. So, if sixty six per cent of the farmers are not having even one acre of land, how can their holding be viable? The second aspect that we should include in the policy is that they should have irrigation facilities. If we take the case of not only Punjab and Haryana, but also of the whole country only 40 per cent of land has been covered under irrigation up till now, and the rest 60 per cent remain due. We have completed more than 59 years of independence, there should have been better marketing facilities created. The farmers should have the market to sell their agricultural produce at a remunerative price. The policy should offer to the farmers the availability of seeds, pesticides and fertilizers at an affordable price. This has not been ensured as yet. The farmers should have an opportunity to take financial assistance from financial institutions. There is a great lacuna

that the farmers are facing up till now. The farmers do not have sufficient opportunity to get bank credit. So they rush to private moneylenders, and they get indebted to them for years together. So, they fail to continue farming. Some of them go to the extent of committing suicide. So, agricultural labourers should be given fair wages. Our agricultural policy should be such that agricultural labourers get fair wages and other amenities like housing, medical facilities, education for their children. All these facilities should be provided to agricultural labourers and agricultural workers. If agricultural workers do not get these facilities, how will they provide their labour to the farmers?

The eighth point that I would like to be included in the agricultural policy is that all the farmers should be brought under the purview of the crop insurance scheme, in which we have still been lagging far behind. What is the agricultural scenario in the country? Sir, the rate of growth of our population is 1.8 per cent. The annual average growth rate of our agricultural production is 1.3. per cent. This shows that our population is increasing at a faster rate than our agricultural production. That is another reason why we do not have sufficient food.

Sir, public investment in the agricultural sector is declining. We have seen in the last Budget also. The budgetary provision for agricultural, for irrigation, was not only not up to the mark, it was much less than what was required.

Sir, agricultural production in the country is not steady. It is unstable. Over the last four or five years, the production has been going down. The total production has been going down. Sir, a large number of farmers, particularly the young ones, are withdrawing from farming. They do not have opportunities in agriculture now. They are rushing to the cities. They are rushing to the urban areas. This is the scenario. So, loss of farms or loss of land for agricultural is one serious concern which needs to be taken care of. Sir, people are increasingly moving out to the cities for their livelihood. So, while saying that there is this trend of their movement to the cities, I would also like to say that in West Bengal, in Tripura and in Kerala we have been seeing an opposite trend. If you look at the Census, you will find that the popution of Bangalore is increasing like anything. But, surprisingly, the population of Kolkata has been more or less stationary. Why is it so? It is because the farmers in the villages

there have lots of opportunities to earn their livelihood, to grow crops, vegetables, to take to fishing any many other activities and so stay there. That work possibility has been arranged for them. That is why the rush to the city has been arrested in Tripura and in West Bengal. For my State Tripura, I can say this. So, this message should be taken to all corners of the country.

Sir, I would like to say something about irrigation. In these days of advancement of science and technology, we have left our farmers the only way to look at the open sky when it will rain, when water will come down and then they will plough their land. Even after 59 years of Independence, we have left our farmers to that stage. Sir, in Bengali it is said, 'अल्ला मेघ दे, पानी दे' This is the situation till today. When flood comes, it is flooded everywhere. Our rivers get over-flown and the water goes down to the seas and we cannot store it. What is the percentage of water that we utilize? And, when there is drought, we cannot give water to the land; we cannot give our farmer the opportunity to lift water from inside the soil. We cannot provide them money for this purpose. They run to the banks; they run to the financial institutions, and nobody cares to help them. And, finally, they rush to the private money-lenders for a loan so that they can bore a tubewell for getting water for their crops. Sir, every year, a lot of water goes waste. Why can't we store this water? Why can't we divert the flow of rivers to go across the field? Why could we not do it up-till now? Are we short of engineers? Have we not got good number of agricultural scientists in our country? Why can't we do this? This is because of the lacuna in the planning. We did not to do so. We did not tell them that this should be done. What have we seen in China? Lakhs and lakhs of people used to die every year in river Huang Ho. But, now the river Huang Ho is a blessing for the Chinese. That way, we cannot control river the Brahmaputra; we cannot control the Ganges; we cannot control the Yamuna, Saraswati and Godavari. We cannot control all these rivers. We cannot utilize that water. If sufficient attention is given to irrigation, then, our farmers will prosper. Without irrigation, there can be no agriculture.

Sir, this year, what have we seen? The drought-prone areas were flooded. This year, we had a peculiar situation. The drought-prone areas. The drought-prone States, got flooded by water and in the areas like North-east, Assam, West Bengal and Bihar, where generally there used

to be plenty of rainfall, there was no rainfall this year. For them, there was no water. These areas got deficient rainfall. it was calculated that these areas recorded deficiency in rainfall by about 20 per cent. In the areas where generally every year sufficient rainfall occurs, this year, that was not the situation.

Now Sir, I come to the procurement policy. My good friend, Shri Arjun Kumar Sengupta has already mentioned about the procurement policy of our country. Alongwith the procurement policy, there is the question of Minimum Support Price. Both are interconnected. Generally, in Haryana and Punjab, procurement is done. But there are also States where agricultural production is not much less. For example, in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, there is no procurement. That is why, there, cultivators are forced to distress-sale. They are being compelled to take up the distress sale, because there is nobody to purchase their produce at a reasonable price. There is no public agency to purchase their crops. Sir, the agriculture sector is a sector which provides the largest opportunities of work till now, because industrial development has not taken place all over the country uniformly. Even now in many States, actually, if we speak of the work opportunities, they are confined to the agriculture sector to a large extent. About sixty per cent of the work force today is engaged in agriculture. But, now-a-days, there also, we see that the opportunities of work have reduced because of the distress conditions of farmers. Sir, though our farmers produce crops, vegetables and other produces, when they bring their produces to markets, they find that there is a competition. There is a competition in the market. What kind of a competition? That competition is that our Government is pursuing, from the period of the NDA Government, a policy according to which there is no restriction on imports. There is no quantitative restriction on imports. That is why, paddy is coming, rice is coming, tea is coming, and wheat is also coming from abroad. All these are produced here by the farmers. So, this outsourcing into our markets, because of our policy of liberalization, is another cause why our farmers do not get the actual price of their produces. So, they cannot sell their produces. What is the market policy for the farmers? We have to open that to them. I would like to know from the Agriculture Minister what scope we have left for them when this is the market policy. And, what do we see? Because of this policy of liberalization, subsidies from fertilizers, subsides from inputs, subsidies from seeds,

subsides from pesticides have been either withdrawn or tremendously reduced. So, the farmers are compelled to spend more for the agricultural purposes. They are compelled to spend more, but, in turn, the prices of the crops are falling down. The prices of their produce are falling down. So, there is a double punishment for them. One, they have to spend more, and the second, the prices of their produce are falling down. So, where do the farmers stand?

Sir, now I come to Minimum Support Price. How is the Minimum Support Price calculated? How will it be calculated? Our Government claims that it has increased the Minimum Support Price by Rs. 50 per quintal or like that. Sir, it is true that as compared to the other Governments, previous Governments, the UPA Government is giving a better MSP, the Minimum Support Price, to the farmers. I must thank the UPA Government for this. But, the thing is that, how are you calculating the Minimum Support Price? What are the criteria that have to be followed? For example, Sir, the cost of production should be calculated first. What is the cost of production? The cost of production must include labour charges. ...(*Time-bell*)... Sir, I will take two-three minutes more. What will be the cost of production? The cost of production must include labour charges. What are the labour charges? In our State of Tripura, for an agricultural labourer, we have to pay, at least, Rs. 150 per day; we are paying Rs. 125 to Rs. 150 per day. So, if we have to calculate the Minimum Support Price, we have to include that amount in the cost because three-four members of the farmers' family, the husband, the wife, sons and daughters are all working in the field So, you have to calculate the labour charges for, at least, three persons. If you do not calculate the labour charges for, at least, three persons, then he will not be able to overcome the cost. So, you have to calculate at least three labour charges. Sir, it varies from region to region, from State to State.

The second thing that needs to be included is the irrigation cost. In our State, we are not charging irrigation cost. But in many other States, there is irrigation cost, and the irrigation cost also varies from State to State. What is the irrigation cost? If there is a provision for organized irrigation by using Government pumps, lift irrigation, and tubewells, etc., then it is all right. But if there is no scope for it, then how do the farmers irrigate their land? What will they do then? They will irrigate their land by traditional methods, traditional processes which are more costly.

Then, there is the transport cost. The farmers have to take their produce from his house to the market. There is a transport cost involved in it and it should also be calculated. Then, there is the cost of seeds. If the Government cannot provide them the seeds, they will go to the private shops for buying seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, etc., and that will cost a lot. There will be a huge cost involved in it. So, Sir, all these things should be taken into consideration, while calculating the cost of production. The MSP must exceed the cost of production sufficiently and substantially. I understand that a lot of research has been done in this line.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, Mr. Sarkar.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Till date, the cost of production is not calculated in the right way and that is why the Minimum Support Price has so far remained below the cost of production. That is another reason that the farmers are subjected to distress sale.

Sir, I would like to make a point about financial assistance to farmers. The banks and other financial institutions do not come forward every time-sometimes they may-to offer credit to the farmers. What mechanism does the Government have for them? Is there any intermediary agency or any coordinating body that would work for the farmers to get them bank loans? There is so much paraphernalia and so good a procedure. The farmers cannot even go to the doors of the banks, not to speak of getting a loan. I am speaking of the ordinary farmers. There may be some rich farmers, zamindars, etc. who get it, no doubt. But ordinary farmers don't get it. And that is why they rush to the doors of moneylenders. For the poor farmers, moneylenders are the 'World Bank'. (*Time Bell*)

So, Sir, these concerns must be taken care of. Finally, I would like to touch upon just one point. The hon. Member is not here; in his Bill, he has mentioned that there should be five members to be appointed by the Central Government, but it has not been specified as to who would be those five members. And, it has been mentioned that there would be three members from among the farmers from four zones. How could it be that for four regions there would be only three members? There should be, at least, four members from four regions.

Finally, he has mentioned that the headquarters must be at Pondicherry. I do not know how he has selected the place.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not there to answer.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, I think he is listening to me from wherever he is. I think only one thing is required; the Chairman should be Shri Narayanasamy! This is what I want to say. He has gone up to Pondicherry. But there was something else missing. I have tried to fill it up saying that the Chairman should be Shri Narayanasamy!

With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you, Sir.

श्री मंगनी लाल मंडल (बिहार): महोदय, श्री वी॰ नारायणसामी को सभी लोगों ने बधाई दी है, मैं भी उन्हें यह कृषि उत्पाद (लाभकारी मूल्य) विधेयक, 2006 इस सदन में प्रस्तुत करने के लिए बधाई देता हूं।

महोदय, उन्होंने इस बिल का जो प्रारूप प्रस्तुत किया है, उसमें कई विसंगतियां हैं जिन की चर्चा अभी सरकार साहब ने की है, लेकिन मैं बिल के क्लॉज 3(1) की तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं। इसमें राष्ट्रीय कृषि उत्पाद लाभकारी मूल्य निर्धारण बोर्ड के गठन का उल्लेख है, लेकिन इसमें कैसे विशेषज्ञ लोग रहेंगे और कहां से लिए जाएंगे, इसका उल्लेख नहीं है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, there was a question- why should Pondicherry be the headquarters?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I shall reply to that, Sir. I know where my colleague wants it to be placed!

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: I have made you the Chairman because it is Pondicherry!

श्री मंगनी लाल मंडल: महोदय, मेरी आपत्ति नहीं है, आपत्ति तो सरकार साहब की है, लेकिन मेरे मन में भी यह बात उठी थी कि इस का मुख्य कार्यालय पांडिचेरी में कैसे होगा? फिर भी उन्होंने जो प्रस्ताव रखा है, मैं उस का विरोध नहीं करता हूं। महोदय, आज खाद्य-सुरक्षा पर जबर्दस्त संकट उपस्थित हो गया है। आज न सिर्फ किसानों को उचित मूल्य ही मिल पा रहा है, जिसके चलते वे आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं, बल्कि उत्पादन में गिरावट भी आ रही है और हमारी जो खाद्य-सुरक्षा होनी चाहिए तथा हमारी आगे की जो दृष्टि होनी चाहिए, उस खाद्य-सुरक्षा पर जबर्दस्त खतरा उत्पन्न हो गया है।

स्वामीनाथन आयोग की बड़ी चर्चा हुई है। पिछले एक वर्ष से अखबारों में खूब धूम मचा हुआ है कि स्वामीनाथन आयोग ने यह अनुशंसा की, वह अनुशंसा की, लेकिन किसानों के संगठनों ने इसको यह कह कर अस्वीकार कर दिया है कि - खोदा पहाड़ निकली चुहिया। स्वामीनाथन आयोग

की रिपोर्ट में कुछ अनुशंसा नहीं है। अभी तक मैंने भी जो देखा है, उसमें कोई ऐसी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात नहीं है। किसानों को उचित मूल्य मिले, इसके लिए कई दृष्टिकोण हैं, कई माननीय सदस्यों ने चर्चा की है, मैं इस पर भी आउंगा, लेकिन मैं पहले ''विश्व व्यापार संगठन (कृषि करार) वार्ताएं'', जो भारत सरकार का दस्तावेज है, उसका उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा। मैंने कहा है कि खाद्य-सुरक्षा पर जबर्दस्त खतरा उत्पन्न हो गया है। हमारी पहली हरित क्रांति हो चुकी है और अब हम दूसरी हरित क्रांति करने जा रहे हैं। मैं प्रधान मंत्री डा॰ मनमोहन सिंह जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूं कि वे पहले प्रधान मंत्री हैं कि उन्होंने विदर्भ के गांवों का दौरा किया। उन्होंने एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण बात कही कि हम कृषि-नीति में स्वदेशीपन लाएंगे। यह कृषि-नीति की राष्ट्रवादी अवधारणा है। अभी तक हम चीनी मॉडल की बात करते थे। पुराने कांग्रेसियों में एकाध यहां पर है। हम लोग विद्यार्थी जीवन में कांग्रेस के आवारी सम्मेलन का प्रस्ताव पढ़ते थे कि पं॰ जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी ने कहा कि कोऑपरेटिव कॉमनवैल्थ होना चाहिए, तभी कृषि की पैदावार बढ़ेगी और जब पैदावार बढ़ेगी, तब किसानों को भी उचित मूल्य मिलेगा। आज दुनिया में मुख्य रूप से 15-20 देश ऐसे हैं, जिनकी गणना गेहूं के उत्पादनकर्ता देशों में की जाती है। उनमें हम भी हैं और चीन भी है, लेकिन चीन हमसे आगे हैं। अगर मैं नहीं भूलता हूं, तो 2004-05 में चीन ने 92 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन पैदा किया और हमने 72 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन पैदा किया, जब कि हमारे यहां गेहूं की पैदावार ज्यादा होती है। चीन ने बहुत-सी चीजों की शुरूआत इधर की है। वहां दूध पीने की शुरूआत भी इधर ही हुई है। पहले वहां दूध भी नहीं पीते थे। अब वह डेयरी पर भी ध्यान दे रहा है। हम एग्रिकल्चर के एलाइड एक्टिविटीज़ में, डेयरी के मामले में, सबसे आगे हैं। चीन में लोगों ने दूध पीना अब शुरू किया है। गेहूं का पर हेक्टेयर उत्पादन चीन का हमसे दोगुना है। चीन के मुकाबले में हम पर-हेक्टेयर उत्पादन कम करते हैं। पं॰ जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी की दृष्टि थी कि कोऑपरेटिव कॉमनवैल्थ के माध्यम से खेती होगी, इन्होंने अभी लैंड के मामले में चर्चा की, तो उत्पादन बढ़ेगा। हम पर-हेक्टेयर उत्पादन अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर ज्यादा करेंगे, तो किसानों को भी लाभकारी मूल्य मिलेगा। लेकिन किसानों को लाभकारी मूल्य नहीं मिल रहा है, क्योंकि जो पर-हेक्टेयर उत्पादन होना चाहिए, वह उत्पादन नहीं हो रहा है। उसके कई कारण हैं, मैं उस पर आउंगा। लेकिन मैंने भारत सरकार के जिस दस्तावेज की चर्चा की है, मैं यह कोट करना चाहूंगा। इसमें कहा गया है कि ''भारत की अर्थ-व्यवस्था कृषि-आधारित है। कृषि-क्षेत्र लगभग 67 फीसदी आबादी को रोजगार देता हैं और देश के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद में इसका 25 प्रतिशत योगदान है, किन्तु विश्व के कृषि व्यापार में भारत की भूमिका न्यूनतम है।'' यह भारत सरकार की स्वीकारोक्ति है। इसमें फिर आगे कहा गया है कि ''फिलहाल कृषि के विश्व व्यापार में इसका शेयर 1 प्रतिशत से कम है। वर्ष 2004-05 में भारत के कुल निर्यात में कॉफी, चाय और मात्स्यिकी यानी फिशरी सहित कृषि-उत्पादों का शेयर लगभग 11.20 प्रतिशत था।'' और घटा होगा। यह हमारी स्थिति है, लेकिन आगे मैं एक और कोट करना चाहूंगा-''कृषि आयात में अधिक परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ है।'' क्यों नहीं हुआ है? हमने तो पहली कृषि क्रांति अर्थात् पहली हरित

क्रांति की थी, तो यह माना गया था कि हमारा उत्पादन बढ़ेगा। अब भारत सरकार के दस्तावेज में कहा गया है कि ''वर्ष 1993-94 के मूल्य के आधार पर कृषि के सकल घरेलू उत्पाद में 3,14,180 करोड़ रुपए का जो योगदान था, वह घटकर वर्ष 2003-04 में 3,10,611 करोड़ रुपए रह गया है।'' तो कृषि उत्पाद में गिरावट आ रही है और हम खाद्यान्न का आयात कर रहे हैं। यह भारत सरकार का दस्तावेज हैं। फिर, मैं कोट करना चाहूंगा, जो भारत सरकार का दस्तावेज है, कि-''कृषि आयात में अधिक परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ है। यद्यपि कृषि आयात वर्ष 2003-02 में 21,97,26,800 हजार रुपए से बढ़कर वर्ष 2004-05 में 22,05,74,900 हजार रुपए हो गया है। तथापि देश के कुल आयात में कृषि आयात का शेयर लगभग 4.59% पर स्थिर रहा है। जैसा मैंने पहले कहा, खाद्य सुरक्षा पर यह स्थिति है। ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है?

महोदय, जमीन की स्थिति यह है कि देश में, हर प्रांत में लैंड होल्डिंग्स का अलग-अलग आकार है यहां लैंडलेस लोगों की चर्चा की गई, मार्जिनल फार्मर्स की चर्चा की गई, सीमांत किसान की और लघु किसान की चर्चा की गई, लेकिन जो खेत जोतने वाले लोग हैं, वे आज भूमिहीन हैं, क्योंकि जिनके पास जमीन है उनके पास दूसरा रोजगार है, नौकरी है और जो नौकरी करता है या व्यापार करता है, कुछ प्रांतों को छोड़कर, वे उस जमीन को पट्टे पर दे रहे हैं, बटाई पर दे रहे हैं। अब जिनको यह जमीन पट्टे पर दे रहे हैं, बटाई पर दे रहे हैं उनकी आय तो बढ़ेगी नहीं तो ऐसी स्थिति में आत्महत्या तो जरूर होगी। मूल बात यह है कि किसानों को उचित दाम नहीं मिल रहा है। किसानों की अपनी भूमि नहीं है, खेती का आकार छोटा हो गया है और जब खेती का आकार छोटा हो गया है, तो वह लाभकारी नहीं होगी। इसीलिए जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी ने कोआपरेटिव कॉमनवेल्थ का नारा दिया था।

महोदय, मैं यहां महात्मा गांधी जी को याद करना चाहूंगा और कोट करना चाहूंगा कि साबरमती आश्रम में लुईस फिशर ने उनसे पूछा कि महात्मा जी, देश की आजादी के बाद आपकी जमीन का क्या होगा? गांधी जी पर समय-समय पर कई तरह के आरोप दूसरे लोग लगाते थे, मगर मैं गांधी जी को मानता हूं कि राजनीति के सबसे बड़े आजादी आन्दोलन के वे बड़े मदारी थे, जिन्होंने समय-समय पर सभी वर्गों को स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में शामिल किया। इसीलिए जब तक जमींदार उनके साथ शामिल नहीं हुए थे और वे राय बहादुर, खान बहादुर से बहुत अलंकृत, चमत्कृत थे, तब तक महात्मा गांधी ने उनके खिलाफ कुछ नहीं कहा। जब जमींदार लोगों ने राय बहादुर, खान बहादुर का खिताब पटक दिया और महात्मा गांधी के नेतृत्व को स्वीकार कर लिया, तो महात्मा गांधी ने जमीन के बारे में बात की। जब लुईस फिशर ने पूछा कि बापू, यह बताओ, आजादी के बाद तुम्हारी जमीन का क्या होगा? तो महात्मा गांधी ने कहा कि जो जोतेगा, जो बोएगा, जो मेहनत करेगा, खेत उसी का होगा, जमीन उसी की होगी। आज कहां गए महात्मा गांधी के विचार? हम चीन की बात करते हैं, चीन में तो बड़े-बड़े आकर की जोत है कहीं 200 बीघा, कहीं 100 बीघा और कहीं 50 बीघा के आकार की जमीनों में खेती होती है।

वहां पर आधुनिक तकनीक के आधार पर, आधुनिक कृषि अनुसंधान के द्वारा, सस्ती एवं कम दरों पर बीज पैदा होता है, इसके लिए वहां पर अनुसंधान किए जाते हैं और फिर खेती की जाती है। लेकिन हमारे यहां पर किसानों की हालत अलग है। अभी मैंने जो फिगर्स दिए हैं, उनके अनुसार विगत तीन वर्षों में कृषि आयात 300% बढ़ा है। गत् सत्र में मैंने माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी का भाषण सुना था। मैं माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी का बड़ा सम्मान करता हूं, वह देश के मंजे हुए नेता हैं और उन्होंने कृषि को एक नयी दिशा देने का प्रयास किया है। किन्तु स्वयं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी भी इस संबंध में चिंतित हैं, जैसा कि मैंने पहले कहा कि वह पहले प्रधान मंत्री हैं, जो गांव में गए, लेकिन आयात पर हमारी निर्भरता कैसे कम हो, इसके बारे में कृषि मंत्री ने कुछ नहीं कहा है।

महोदय, जिस वर्ष कॉटन का बम्पर क्रॉप हुआ, ऐसा सरकार ने कहा, ऑयल सीड्स का भी बम्पर उत्पादन हुआ उस वर्ष भी हम खाद्य तेल के मामले में आधे से ज्यादा विदेशों पर निर्भर हैं। खाद्य तेल की निर्भरता के मामले में सरकार ने दसवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में कोई दृढ़ संकल्प नहीं दिखाया है। स्वामीनाथन आयोग ने भी इसके बारे में कोई महत्वपूर्ण बात नहीं कही है। सरकार ने कहा कि 2004-05 में रिकॉर्ड प्रोडक्शन हुआ, जब 26.10 मिलियन टन ऑयल सीड्स पैदा हुए। उसके बाद कॉटन एडवाइजरी बोर्ड की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार कहा गया कि कॉटन का भी 23.20 मिलियन बेल्स ऑफ 170 किलो ग्राम ईच के साथ रिकॉर्ड प्रोडक्शन हुआ है। 170 किलो ग्राम की 23.20 मिलियन गांठे पैदा हुईं, जो रिकॉर्ड प्रोडक्शन था, लेकिन उसी साल किसानों ने सबसे ज्यादा आत्महत्याएं कीं। आंध्र प्रदेश की सरकार ने स्वयं इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि अब तक केवल आंध्र प्रदेश में ही 4261 किसानों ने आत्महत्याएं की हैं, कर्नाटक में 124 आत्महत्याएं हुई हैं, इसमें वर्ष 2006 के आंकड़े शामिल नहीं हैं। 2005 तक महाराष्ट्र में 142 किसानों ने, केरल में 21 किसानों ने आत्महत्याएं कीं। पिछले दस वर्षों में इन चार राज्यों के साथ-साथ जहां पर भी खाद्य तेल, कॉटन एवं दूसरी चीजें पैदा होती हैं उन सभी राज्यों के मिला कर जो आंकड़े हैं, उनके अनुसार करीब 25,000 किसान आत्महत्या कर चुके हैं। जिस साल बम्पर क्रॉप होता है, कॉटन उत्पादन होता है, खाद्य तेल उत्पादन होता है, अनाज उत्पादन होता है, उस साल भी किसान आत्महत्या करते हैं, इसका कारण क्या है? इसकी पृष्ठभूमि में क्या बात हो सकती है? सिर्फ मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइज तय कर देने से ही किसानों की समस्याओं का अंत नहीं होगा। आप किसान को मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइज तो देते ही हैं, लेकिन जब अनाज किसान के घर से निकलता है, उसके बाद बाजार का जो स्थिरीकरण होना चाहिए, उसे आप नहीं करते हैं। हालांकि आपकी नीति में यह है कि हम मंडी हस्तक्षेप की नीति को लागू करेंगे और जब मार्किट में सरप्लस होगा एवं अगर उसे मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइज के माध्यम से हम खरीद नहीं सकेंगे तो मंडी हस्तक्षेप स्कीम को लागू करेंगे। लेकिन जब अनाज किसान के घर से निकल जाता है तब उसका मूल्य बढ़ जाता है। आपने उसके लिए 750 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल मूल्य तय किया, वहीं निजी

कंपनियों ने उसे 850 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल पर लेना स्वीकार किया, इसलिए किसान ने उसे आपको नहीं बेचा। किसान को तो जहां अधिक दाम मिलेगा, वहीं वह अनाज देगा। लेकिन आज मार्किट में गेहूं किस दाम पर मिल रहा है? जब हम दिल्ली से पटना गए, हमारे घर में अनाज की आवश्यकता थी, इसलिए वहां पर हमने पूछा कि गेहूं का दाम क्या है, उन्होंने कहा कि खाने वाला गेहूं 2018 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल मिलता है। इस तरह आपने किसान को 750 रुपये दिए, कंपनियों ने उन्हें 850 रुपये दिए, आपके पास मार्किट को कंट्रोल करने की कोई नीति नहीं है, नैफेड इत्यादि को आपने सफेद हाथी की तरह बना कर रखा हुआ है, इससे किसानों को उचित दाम कैसे मिलेगा? किस तरह से खेती लाभकारी होगी?

महोदय, जब तक चकबंदी नहीं होगी, जब तक जोत का आकार बड़ा नहीं होगा और जब तक सभी प्रदेशों में लैंड रिफॉर्म्स नहीं होगा, तब तक किसानों को उचित दाम नहीं मिलेगा। मैं बार-बार कहता हूं कि...। कि जिसके पास जमीन है वह आज किसान नहीं है, जिसके पास जमीन है वह खेती नहीं करता है, जिसके पास जमीन है वह व्यापार करता है और नौकरी करता है तथा खेती को उसने मनहर पर लगा दिया है या पट्टा पर लगा दिया या बटाई पर लगा दिया। इसीलिए लैंड रिफॉर्म आवश्यक है। महोदय, आपका इशारा हो रहा है, मैं दो-तीन बातें और कहना चाहूंगा। एक कृषि नीति के स्वदेशीकरण की बात है और प्रधान मंत्री जी ने ऐलान किया है कि जो बाहरी निवेश हमारी खेती में हो उस पर हमारी निर्भरता कम होनी चाहिए। अब यह पिछले कई वर्षों से बिहार में सुखाड़ हो गया। पिछले साल जब हम खरीफ के समय में गए थे धान का यील्ड ज्यादा नहीं हुआ, हमने पूछा कि यील्ड क्यों नहीं हुआ, तो कहा कि बीज का पेटेंटीकरण हो गया। अब बाजार से बीज लाते हैं, पहले ट्रेडिशनल बीज किसान घर में रखता था और खेत में बोता था तो यील्ड होता था। जिस समय हम बच्चे थे उस समय खेत में खाद भी नहीं होती थी, पानी भी नहीं होता था। तो अभी जो बीज का पेटेंटीकरण हुआ है और जिन बीजों का नहीं हुआ है यह जो आई.सी.ए.आर. भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद है इसने पिछले दस वर्षों में कम लागत पर अधिक उपज देने वाले धान या गेहूं या ईख या कॉटन या दूसरे बीज पैदा नहीं किए हैं तो फिर इसकी क्या आवश्यकता है। वर्ल्ड मार्केट को हम कैसे मीट कर सकते हैं? हम चीन, ब्राजील और यू.एस.ए. का मुकाबला कैसे कर सकते हैं? खाद्य आयात के मामले में हम कैसे दाम ले सकते हैं? तो यह जो भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद है आज बैठा हुआ है, उसको कोई काम नहीं रह गया है। इसलिए इसमें गति देनी होगी।

महोदय, कुछ सुझाव देकर के हम अपनी बात समाप्त करना चाहेंगे। किसानों के लोन के मामले में चर्चा की है। किसानों को क्रौप लोन मिलता है। क्रौप लोन के मामले में 1980 में एक बैंकिंग कानून बना। वित्त मंत्री ने कहा था कि हम 7 परसेंट इंटरेस्ट लेंगे। लेकिन उसमें एक बात की

व्यवस्था नहीं हुई जो बहुत घातक है किसानों के लिए, क्योंकि इस कारण किसानों में आत्म-हत्या होती है। 1980 में जो बैंकिंग अधिनियम बना उसमें कम्पाउंड इंटरेस्ट की व्यवस्था हैं आपने यह तो कर दिया कि 11 परसेंट से घटाकार किसानों को 7 परसेंट पर ऋण मिलेगा, लेकिन इसकी गारंटी नहीं हुई है कि यह जो चक्रवृद्धि ब्याज है या जो मिश्रित ब्याज है यह किसानों से नहीं लिया जाएगा। नतीजा यह होता है कि किसानों को खंडों में लोन देते हैं। यह टर्म लोन है, यह वर्किंग लोन है, यह फर्टिलाइजर लोन है। यह चार बार-पांच बार किसानों को लोन मिलता है, कभी तीन हजार, चार हजार, पांच हजार और महोदय नतीजा क्या होता है कि जिस किसान ने पट्टे पर जमीन ली है और जिसके नाम से जमीन का कागज नहीं है, जो गरीब आदमी ने बटाई पर जमीन ली है और उसके नाम से मालगुजारी की रसीद नहीं है तो बैंक उसको ऋण नहीं देगा। यही व्यावहारिक पहलू है और यदि किसी कारण से सीमांत किसान ने ऋण लिया तो कम्पाउंड इंटरेस्ट में पांच हजार का ऋण एक साल में पन्द्रह हजार हो जाता है। इसलिए इस ओर मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि इस पर सरकार ध्यान दे।

महोदय, मैं दो-तीन सुझाव रिकार्ड कराना चाहूंगा। पहला, जो विदेशी हस्तक्षेप है बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों का हस्तक्षेप है जो पेटेंटीकरण है, जो बाहरी निवेश है हिन्दुस्तान की कृषि में इसको कम करना चाहिए या इसको लैस करना चाहिए या नगण्य करना चाहिए। दो, कृषि व्यवस्था को आवश्यकतानुसार सुदृढ़ करना चाहिए। तीन, पर्यावरण नीति के अनुसार फसल उगाने में आवश्यक तकनीकी में परिवर्तन कर तदनुसार किसानों को प्रशिक्षित किया जाना चाहिए और प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिए। चार, मेरा सुझाव यह है कि अनुसंधान के द्वारा इस देश में नई किस्म के उपजाऊ बीजों का अविष्कार किया जाना चाहिए।

पांच, कृषि अनुसंधान के फलाफल को किसानों तक पहुंचाने में सुगम विधि को ढांचागत आधार प्रदान करना चाहिए और तदनुसार नेटवर्क तैयार करना चाहिए।

छह, सिंचाई और जल प्रबंधन में किसानों की प्रत्यक्ष भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करनी चहिए। क्योंकि अभी-अभी श्री नारायणसामी जी ने इरिगेशन के बारे में कहा कि मानसून फेल हो गया था। हम द्वितीय हरित क्रांति करने जा रहे हैं। हमारे यहां रिवर की इंटरलिकिंग स्कीम एनडीए गवर्नमेंट में चली थी। यह स्कीम किसी की भी हो, लेकिन यह इंटरलिकिंग रिवर की स्कीम अच्छी है। मैं ब्रह्मपुत्र के मामले में बताना चाहता हूं कि जब ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के इन्टरलिंकिग की बात उठी तो आसाम के लोगों ने कहा कि हम ब्रह्मपुत्र से और पानी नहीं जाने देंगे, लेकिन जब बाढ़ आती है, तबाही मचती है, तो आसाम के लोग कहते हैं कि इस पानी का प्रबंध होना चाहिए और बाढ़ से मुक्ति मिलनी चाहिए। इसलिए इंटरलिकिंग रिवर की स्कीम सिर्फ नेशनल लेवल पर ही नहीं, जिस प्रदेश में 20-30 नदियां बहती हैं, वहां भी स्टेट के अंदर इंटरलिकिंग रिवर होनी

चाहिए। बड़ी नदियों में से सिंचाई के लिए पानी की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, अच्छी तरह से वाटर मैनेजमेंट होना चाहिए।

महोदय, मेरा सातवां सुझाव है कि कृषि उत्पादों पर आधारित बाजार और मंडी के नियंत्रण और संचालन में किसानों की भूमिका और भागीदारी सुनिश्चित की जानी चाहिए। यह जो नारायणसामी जी का बिल है, पांच मेम्बर को कहा कि बोर्ड में होगा, लेकिन किसानों का सलेक्शन कैसे होगा, उसके बारे में उन्होंने नहीं कहा। इनको पांडिचेरी में जाकर के खोजना पड़ेगा। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It will come in the rules to be framed. *(Interruptions)*

श्री मंगनी लाल मंडल: मेरा आठवां सुझाव है, जिसके बारे में मैंने पहले कहा कि भूमि सुधार, चकबंदी और बड़े लोगों की जमीन लेनी चाहिए। अर्थात्

"खेती नौकरी या व्यापार,
एक व्यक्ति, एक रोजगार।"

यह देश में चलाइए, तभी खेत में खेती उपजाऊ होगी और किसानों को उचित दाम मिलेगा।

मेरा नौवां सुझाव है कि भूमि पर जोतने वालों का स्वामित्व हो। मेरा दसवां सुझाव है कि कृषि प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों की उत्पादों के अनुसार स्थापना होनी चाहिए। मेरा ग्यारहवां सुझाव है कि जोतों के क्षेत्रफल अर्थात् आकार को बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए तथा देश में चकबंदी को प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिए और जवाहरलाल् नेहरू के कोआपरेटिव कॉमनवैल्थ को इंट्रोडयूज करना। इन्हीं बातों के साथ, मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Sir, I stand to support this Agricultural Produce (Remunerative Prices) Bill, 2006 introduced by my colleague, Mr. Narayanasamy, Sir, honestly speaking, it has become a ritual to discuss about issues of farmers in this august House in almost every session. sir, the agrarian crisis that is being faced in this country can be easily seen by the number of suicides that has taken place in this country. I am quoting only the official status; 8900 suicides were committed by farmers between 2001 and 2006 in four States of the country alone-Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. Sir, over a period of time, we are having civilised Governments and sometimes...

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर (राजस्थान): सर, मेरा भी बिल इसी विषय पर है। अगर वह आज नहीं आएगा तो लैप्स हो जाएगा।

श्री उपसभापति: क्या कर सकते हैं?

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर: आप कृपया उसे इसी के साथ जुड़वा दीजिए साथ ही उसका भी रिप्लाई हो जाएगा। माननीय मंत्री जी भी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, वे भी कृषि से संबंधित हैं।

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं। देखिए, जो स्पीकर्स हैं, उन्हें आज खत्म करना है। फिर नारायणसामी जी उस पर बोलेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मंगनी लाल मंडल: लेकिन महोदय, कृषि मंत्रालय से संबंधित 3-4 विषयों पर माननीय सदस्य ने चर्चा की है। खाद्य प्रसंस्करण की चर्चा की है, आपूर्ति की चर्चा की है, मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस की चर्चा की है, उसके तो अलग-अलग स्टेट मिनिस्टर्स हैं। अगर कृषि मंत्री नहीं हैं तो उन लोगों को बैठकर यहां लिखना चाहिए।

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कांतिलाल भूरिया): मैं लिख रहा हूं।

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: He is the Minister of State for Agriculture. We don't know the portfolios of the Minister. That is the problem. This Ministry is such a large Ministry that we are unable to memorise who is holding which portfolio. That is the problem. Sir, while formulating the policies and the priorities in respect of the First Five Year Plan, the first Prime Minister said: "Everything can wait but not agriculture." I feel it is very relevant even today. Sir, the growth rate that we are trying to achieve is 10 per cent, and our policy framers, I should congratulate them, have coined a very beautiful phrase, "inclusive growth". This 'inclusive growth' is a very wide concept. And to what extent, are we going to achieve this growth? The Eleventh Five Year Plan Approach Paper, which was presented to this august House, does not have any pragmatic approach towards achieving the 'inclusive growth' as far as the priorities and the policies that have been enunciated in this document are concerned.

Sir, the Bill deals with the paying of the Minimum Support Price. Sir, how long can we keep the farming community in shackles of Misery and deprivation? Should they always know at the doors of the power corridors that we have produced this and pay this price to us? When are we going to liberate these people from these shackles? This is the issue which the Government has to take care of. There are some structural deficiencies, which we have not been able to work out, and in fact, we have been continuously and conveniently ignoring them. The first thing,

is, capital formation. If you go through the data that is available, since 1999-2000, the capital formation in agriculture, that is, including allied sectors like, poultry, fisheries, forestry and everything, in 1999-2000, it was Rs. 50,151 crores; in 2000-01, it was Rs. 44,548 crores, in 2001-02, it was Rs. 55,740 crores, in 2002-03, it was Rs. 55,574 crores, in 2003-04, it was Rs. 56,254 crores; during 2004-05, it has gone down to Rs. 52,813 crores. How can we arrogate to ourselves the credit that we are attentive to the problems of the farming community in this country? To what extent, our arrogation is justified? There has been a continuous decline in the capital formation in providing infrastructure in agriculture. This is about the prices for these years. As per the Mid-term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan that has been presented to this august House, huge amounts have been spent on food subsidy, power subsidy, fertilizer subsidy, and these have effected the decline in the capital formation in agriculture. So, the need of the hour is to rationalize these subsidies. I do not recommend eradication of the subsidies in a particular sector. It has to be rationalized. And increased the investment in the irrigation sector, specially, public investment. So, it is a widely accepted phenomenon that the public investment has got a strong complement. I will take the private investment also. So, the Government has to come forward, and it should not absolve itself of its responsibility by saying that 'the market forces will play their role and we have globalized and privatized the economy, so our role has come to and end.' That is not the answer. The Government has to come forward and it has to step up the investment in these sectors so that there will be private investment also. So, the investment has to be stepped up in irrigation, including micro irrigation, in power sector, water-shed development, including rural electrification and other rural infrastructure. So, the need of the hour is to increase the capital formation. Till date, Mr. Minister, we have not addressed this problem. Conveniently, we have been ignoring this problem, Sir, we had planned to achieve 4 per cent growth rate in the Tenth Five Year Plan. This was solemnly affirmed in this august House that we are going to achieve 4 per cent growth rate in agriculture in the 10th Five Year Plan. Sir I am sorry to say that the average growth rate for the past four years-because we are in the year-end of 2006, 2006-07 is the last year of the Tenth Plan-has not exceeded 1.2 per cent. It has not exceeded 1.2 per cent in agriculture the growth rate. So, definitely, this has got a concomitant effect on other sectors of the economy. Not only, it could

not be able to provide employment, because more than 70 per cent of the people are dependent on this profession, i.e. agriculture, but, whatever be the growth, we have achieved, till today, only an eight per cent rate, which you have been advocating, which is a jobless growth. It is an undeniable fact; everybody is accepting. So, economic inequalities are growing up, and in spite of the huge buffer stocks, that are available in our godowns, the people are unable to purchase foodstuffs. Sir, that is one of the reasons why there are so many suicides. It is not only the debt burden on the farmers, but there are also many other reasons which have got the cumulative effect of forcing them to commit suicide. The food availability, per capita, is going down; the food consumption, per capita is also going down. So, we cannot boast that we are self-sufficient. One State may be self-sufficient, but the other States are deficient in foodgrains production. And we are transporting from parts of Punjab to Kerala to cater to the needs of the people there, by incurring huge transport costs. Sir, we need a comprehensive and holistic approach towards our agriculture. The cosmetic changes of giving some package to Vidarbha, some package to part of Andhra will not serve the purpose. It can only assugage temporarily the feelings of the people. It can never solve the problem permanently. And there is absolutely deceleration in agricultural growth. It is an undeniable fact; the Minister also has admitted.Sir, I make a suggestion to you. There may be constraints of funds. Sir, I will tell you that the banks are flooded with funds; they are approaching the borrowers; they are approaching us and saying, "You kindly make a good proposal for a good borrower," And we are continuously getting phone calls from various banks like the Standard Chartered Bank inquiring whether we need loans from them. The banks are flooded with funds, but the only thing is, the Government does not have any innovative thinking. You formulate some policy, you construct a project where you can bring some one lakh acre of land under cultivation and charge the cost of the project from the farmers. Make a legislation to that effect. And if at all any States are objecting to it, bring 'agriculture' under the Concurrent List, and 'water' also. And you have been talking of the linkage of rivers! Sir, the reply was given in the Rajya Sabha that the Government of India has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court. When they asked for the linkage of rivers, the Union of India filed an affidavit before the hon. Supreme Court, giving details of milestones, dates, time-table for completion and various activities relating to the interlinking of rivers. Sir,

has this august House got no right to know why the Government is not placing that affidavit on the Table of the House? What is the Government thinking? What exactly is the Government thinking? What constraints is the Government facing? Why doesn't the Government take this entire august House into confidence so that we can know what the Government is planning to do in this regard? Sir, I will tell you, unless water is brought under the Central List, the linkage of rivers will be impossible. I am a product of regional parties. The regional chauvinism has gone to the level that they prefer to suffer with floods than allowing the surplus water to go to the deficient States downstream. That is the state of affairs prevailing. Let us be very practical and very pragmatic. And why do you spend so much money on the linkage of rivers when you are not going to do it? I want to have the linkage of rivers. It involves lakhs and crores of rupees of expenditure. It can provide employment. Millions of man-hours can be created. It can provide irrigation to lakhs of hectares of land. It is needed. It will generate wealth. It will provide employment. It will improve the economic growth, a growth rate of ten per cent, which you want to achieve. We can achieve more than 10 per cent. But the Government sould have a correct perspective, what are the constraints that we are facing and how to overcome them. And take the house into confidence, and also all the political parties. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to achieve it, Sir. Sir, I have made some calculations about the credit that required by the agriculture sector. We have got around 30 crore acres of rainfed land and 20 crore acres of irrigated land. The total is 50 crores. The rainfed area requires minimum Rs. 10,000 per acre for raising a single crop. They raise two crops. The irrigated area requires Rs. 20,000 per acre. If you calculate it, you require an amount of Rs. 7 lakh crores. The amount required is Rs. 7 lakh crores. Even if you consider that the big farmers can finance themselves to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh crores, you require a minimum of Rs. 6 lakh crores. Minimum 10 per cent of this unirrigated land has to be brought under irrigation every year. It requires an amount of Rs. 30,000 crores. Both these amounts put together, it comes to Rs. 6.3 lakh crores. That is the credit that has to be provided to the farmers of this country, and you have made a provision of Rs. 7.38 lakh crores for the entire Tenth Five Year Plan. What is your achievement for four years ending 2006? It is Rs. 4.28 lakh crores and that too when the FM announced that the farming credit will be doubled in the next three years. In fact, he has achieved it in the last year. Your figures are totally under-

budgeted. It is not commensurate with the requirements. You have stipulated a condition for the banks that minimum 18 per cent of the bankable credit has to be paid to the farming community. Do you know how many banks have achieved it? Not even six banks have achieved it. We have been asking the banks in every meeting of the Finance Committee. Note even six banks have achieved it.

Sir, I want to bring to your notice-you are an eminent Chartered Accountant; you can appreciate it- that the NPA in the agriculture sector is very low compared to the other sectors. The farmers of this country are more honest than the industrialists and traders. Their NPA rate is very low. If that is the case, when the agriculture sector of the country requires to the tune of Rs. 6.3 lakh crores, what is the constraint that banks have got? The banks don't have any passion. You may remember that there are no agriculturists on the bank boards. They have stopped nominating agriculture scientists and agiculturists on the bank boards. They have also stopped recruiting agriculture graduates. Is it the effect of the globalisation that we are planning? I dont's think that is the intention of the Government, whatever be the Government. Today, you are in power. Tomorrow some other party will come to power. But the problem will remain the same. It will remain unresolved and unsolved. Why don't you take the bankers also into confidence and tell them to achieve 18 per cent credit? If any bank could not achieve 18 per cent credit, the difference has to be deposited with the NABARD and invest in rural infrastructure account from which they would get interest. That is not a punishment and a punitive action. The banks are very happy to invest in that account. Ultimately, the sufferers are the farmers. So, these are all structural defects with the resource mobilsation. Resource mobilisation is very good. If you look at the graphic chart of the targets, you will find that the direct taxes, the indirect taxes, etc., are going up like anything. In fact, the FM is more worried about the SEZs. If the SEZs are introduced, the inflows will go down. I want to make a request to the Finance Minister. He has made us to pass the FRBM Act and he has pressed the pause button. It is an expanding economy. We want to achieve more than 10 per cent growth rate. If that is the case, we want more funds to flow into the economy. Don't restrict yourself. We will support the Government. You continue to press the pause button of the FRBM. We will support you. But you allow liquidity to flow into the market. You allow the investors to come into the infrastructure sector. Only then will it solve the problem; otherwise the cosmetic changes will never serve the purpose.

Regarding disinvestments, why don't you invest the proceeds from disinvestments in the agriculture sector? You want to reduce the deficit. We will never recommend it. Any growing economies will have deficit. There doesn't seem to have much deficit. All developing economies are having deficit. So, don't be very particular about deficit or the FRBM Act. These are the guidelines that have been issued by the affluent, controlled economies like the United States and Europe where they are dominating the World Bank. That is the stipulation which they have initiated. Let us not have tailor-made rules for our economy. We will formulate the rules according to our own needs of the country. Why don't you consider investing the proceeds of disinvestments in the rural infrastructure?

The next thing is productivity. In spite of our best efforts, we have not been able to increase productivity. Assuming that you are payng Rs. 500/- per kg. on a particular product and they are producing 2 kgs. You are paying Rs. 1000/-. If they produce 4 kgs., they will be getting Rs. 2,000/-. So they need not knock your door to pay more MSP. You initiate steps and create conducive atmosphere so that they can improve the productivity of their crop. That is where you have failed. I think, the Swaminathan Commission has also made recommendation in the recent report that productivity has to be increased. That is the need of the hour. Not more than three-fourth of the world's average, we are able to produce today. As compared to Japan and the USA, our productivity is less than a half. As long as the productivity does not increase, we cannot improve the economic condition of our farmers.

So far as the level of foodgrains stock is concerned, the Government should have a very, very corrective and pragmatic perspective. You should know what is the consumption of a particular article, whether pulses or cereals or any other product. You can easily asess as to how much will be the production. Our space technology has gone up to such a level that with five per cent error, we can estimate how much acreage has gone for wheat and what will be the output. We got this answer from the scientists. You can easily ascertain, you can have a comprehensive approach as to what is the requirement of the country; how much is the production and how much will be the surplus. If at all there is surplus, how to dispose it of. If at all there is deficit, how to procure it. Instead of having a knee-jerk reaction, you plan it properly. Then the farmers will be benefited. They will never approach you for MSP.

In this connection, I would like to make some suggestions. The Government should take steps to prepare a national agriculture index. Till today, data is not made available properly. I would like to inform the House that so far as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is concerned, from August onwards, no data is available with the Government. The Government has not made any proper study as to how this scheme is functioning. The so-called job cards, which are being issued in our area, they are like ATM cards, to get Rs. 20/- per day. I am saying this honesty. I am not criticising it. If I can spare my job card, I will be paid Rs. 20/- and I need not work. That is how the works are being managed. You have merged all the rural development programmes into that particular programme. That programme is not functioning properly. We don't have data to analyse whether that programme is functioning properly or not. You should have a national data bank. You should have one commodity board for every crop. It should be headed by agriculture scientists or agriculturists not very senior IAS officers. They will have passion to develop it. I am not blaming the bureaucracy. Bureaucracy's taste is different. Its passion is different. We shold have the people who have got passion over these activities. Then accord the status of agriculture to aquaculture and poultry. You have provided one-time settlement of all the agriculture farmers who are unable to pay back bank loans beacuse of crop failure or some other reasons. But this scheme has not been extended to the poultry industry Sir, especially in the State of Andhra Pradesh, recently, a peculiar disease has hit and destroyed the poultry industry. So, you kindly make a proposal to see whether this poultry industry also should be brought under the purview of this one-time settlement.

Sir, I just have one or two points more to make. Mr. Swaminathan has made excellent recommendations, but certain recommendations seem to be within the framework of this resource constraint; it is rather difficult and I do admit it. But the Government has to think over how best they can raise resources, how they can mobilise resources to implement all these things. But I again say, unless you try to remove these structural deficiencies, you cannot achieve the four per cent growth which you have been trying to proclaim. Sir, China could achieve more than 10 per cent growth rate for the past one-and-a-half decade bacause of the increase in agricultural growth rate. We sould not forget it. And we have been quoting

and emulating the eaxmple of China every time, but they have invested trillion of dollars in rural infrastructure, and they have never had this deficit problem. They know that deficit will not deter them. So, let us be very frank; let us not be guided by what these so-called World Bank or IMF or other banks say. Let us have policies of our own which suits all our farmers, so that we can achieve the desired results.

With these observations, I support this Bill. Thank you.

DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, this particular Bill, the Agricultural Produce (Remunerative Price) Bill, 2006, which has been initiated by hon. V. Narayanasamy, is very much relevant at this juncture. We have debated on this particular point, namely, fixing the Minimum Support Price many a time, and that is also a subject of debate in the media as well. But the situation now is something different. We may not have the data, as Shri Ramachandraiah has said, in different areas of agriculture, but we are getting the FDI in different modes. Various companies are coming into the agricultural field, and they are investing money, providing seeds, fertilisers and all the technology required to develop their own crops, and the Produce from these crops are taken away as exports to other countries. Therefore, gradually, we are coming into the hands of the Foreign Direct Investment. I feel it is high time to think about allowing the Foreign Direct Investment in the agricultural field by the Government itself so that we can find out in which way they can take our agricultural sector, in which way they can turn around the day-to-day affairs of the agriculturists. This format of getting support price, sitting in Delhi, constituting a committee, and considering the various fluctuating parts of prices, may not be feasible in future. I read one of the recommendations of the FII, and I am quoting it here. It says, "The CLL has estimated a conservative growth rate of three per cent in agriculture as this sector is dependent on weather conditions. They have low and tardy elasticity to policy measures. Industry has the potential to expand by 12 per cent while services can grow at an average rate of 11 per cent during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The share of agriculture-GDP dwindles; off-farm employment and income opportunities must be created." This is the view of the Confederation of Indian Industry. Our Government is also thinking that we have to help the agriculturists so that they can come up from the deb trap, and interest is reduced from 14 per cent to 7 per cent. As Mandalji mentioned, it may be seven per cent, in name only; actually the rate at which they pay, as compound interest, is

more than 18 to 24 per cent. Agriculturalists are dependent upon the vegaries of the monsoon and the other season. Therefore, these aspects have to be taken into consideration. Every year, even from a small State of Tamil Nadu, about 10 to 15 lakhs of people migrate as labourers to different States. They are educated; they have got the skills and they come from agricultural families. But, still, they are not able to depend on agriculture because the price of their agricultural produce is not fixed by them; it is fixed by traders who buy the produce when there is good harvest, at low prices, and when there is scarcity of water or else, they buy it at different prices. But the Government is not in a position to fix a uniform price for agricultural produce all over the country. It differs from place to place; even different districts have different fluctuations of price. Now, many of our farmers, with a very simple value addition, can multiply their earning and multiply the price of their product. If you have wheat, it can be made into flour and if it is packaged under different name, under some good trademark, it can fetch very high price. Take, for example, Horlicks. They mix cereals and the cost goes up by 200 per cent. But what does an ordinary agriculturist get? Nobody is interested to get that money back to the agriculturist. Take the sugarcane. The sugarcane by-product, methyl alcohol, is used greatly for many purposes. For fuel, it is now mixed with diesel and petrol. That price is not added when the price of sugarcane is fixed. Molasses give us electricity. The sugar mill owners are earning huge money there. But the benefit of that value addition is not given back to agriculturists so that they can get some reward for their labour. That is what is happening. Sir, take the example of my own State of Tamil Nadu. A very popular Government there is now giving one kilo of rice for two rupees. In one way, it is very appreciable that an ordinary labourer....

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu): But it is not going to the poor people. It is going to*

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Mr. Jothi is upset. (*interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): What is this, Sir? ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, he is not in touch with the agriculturists. Therefore, he does not think about agriculture labourers. ...(*Interruptions*)...

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*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That word should not go. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, I am on a point of order. The expression used against the hon. Member is not proper.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have removed it.

SHRI N. JOTHI: I am very sorry, Sir. What is the word I used?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: No, no, it was used against you.

SHRI N. JOTHI: Sir, I am walking out in protest.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have removed it.

SHRI N. JOTHI: Whatever it is, they must feel sorry for this. Whosoever said it, must regret for this. I am very sorry. I am registering my protest.

(At this stage, the hon. Member left the Chamber.)

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, I was talking about a very serious matter pertaining to agricultural labourers who are enjoying, in a way, that benefit being given to them by the present Government. At the same time, they can earn Rs. 80 per day under the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Ladies are going out for jobs. Men are getting Rs. 120 per day. If they get three or four days' work, they get very cheap rice from the Government under the PDS. They are very happy with that money. They are happy in purchasing the well-prepared rice for their food.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Natchiappan, you can continue your speech next time, because it is 5 O'clock now.

Now, the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2006-07 to be laid on the Table of the House.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 2006-07

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, with your permission, I lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2006-07 (Second Batch).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on 11th December, 2006.

The House then adjourned at one minute past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 11th December, 2006.

MGIPMRND—3874RS—29-12-2007.